

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO CONTAINERS

(71) We, AIRFLEX CONTAINERS LIMITED, a British Company, of Brunswick Road, Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, and CHRISTOPHER DANIEL DOWLING HICKEY, a British subject, of 5 Heathside, Hinchley Wood, Surrey, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to containers for goods.

According to the present invention there is provided a container for goods comprising, in combination an envelope of sheet material to fit over the goods, the envelope having a plurality of spaced peripheral flaps extending around the mouth of the envelope, said flaps each bearing a hook, and a tray comprising a flat base and an upstanding flange which extends around the base and includes a plurality of spaced slots for receiving the hooks of the cover.

There may be, within the tray, a wooden pallet which is protected and reinforced by the tray.

By way of example, an embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 shows an embodiment of an envelope of the container according to the invention; and

Figure 2 shows a metal tray for use with the envelope of Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows an envelope 10, for connection to a metal tray 21 (Figure 5). The envelope, which may be of water-impermeable material, has flaps 22 carrying hooks 23 which engage in slots 24 in the upstanding walls 25 of the tray. The envelope has a drawstring 26 at its top and two tightening straps 27, which pass through tunnels in the surface of the envelope.

The tray is so dimensioned that it may be used to reinforce a conventional slatted wood pallet while permitting pick-up of the pallets and a load thereon by a fork lift truck. The edges 25 are low except at the corners

28 and there are spaces 29 between the flaps 22 of the cover. Thus, a load, on a wooden pallet, may be placed on tray 21, and the cover applied. The parts of a fork lift truck can still enter the slatted wooden pallet for lifting purposes by passing through spaces 29 and over the lower parts of edges 25. The higher corners 28 still provide firm support and reinforcement for the corners of the wooden pallet. Furthermore there is no tensile load on the wooden pallet as the envelope is connected direct to the metal pallet, the wooden pallet being sandwiched in-between.

The metal tray has holes 30 within the periphery of edges 25 positioned to facilitate fastening of the metal tray to the strong-points of an aircraft floor. There are further holes 31 at the edges of the tray to make with the securing holes in a standard 108" X 88" aircraft pallet.

The flat base of the metal pallet makes it suitable for transport by roller conveyor. The slats of conventional wooden pallets tend to jam between rollers.

The envelope may be used with post pallets arranged for stacking one on top of another.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A container for goods comprising, in combination an envelope of sheet material to fit over the goods, the envelope having a plurality of spaced peripheral flaps extending around the mouth of the envelope, said flaps each bearing a hook, and a tray comprising a flat base and an upstanding flange which extends around the base and includes a plurality of spaced slots for receiving the hooks of the cover.

2. A container as claimed in claim 1 comprising means to draw the envelope closely about the goods.

3. A container as claimed in claims 1 or 2 wherein the sheet material is substantially water-impermeable.

4. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 in which the tray is metal.

5. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the tray has holes

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therein to facilitate attachment of the tray to the strongpoints of an aircraft floor and/or to an aircraft pallet.

- 5 6. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in which there is, within the tray, a wooden pallet which is protected and reinforced by the tray.

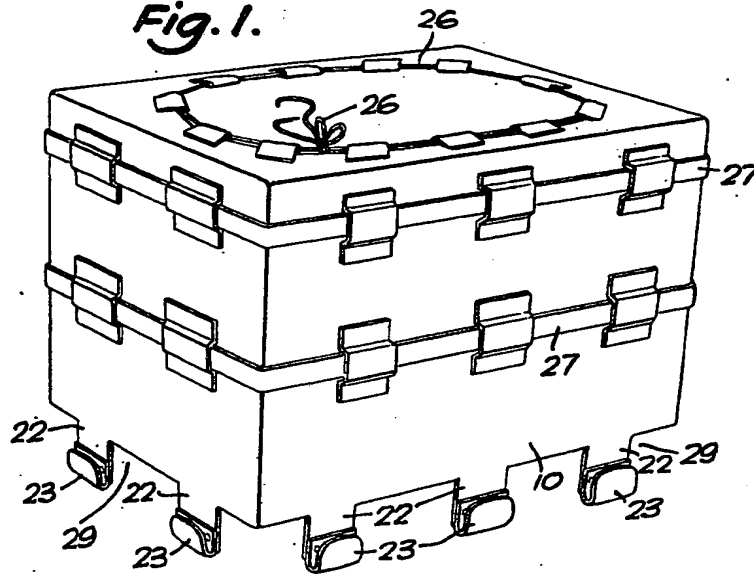
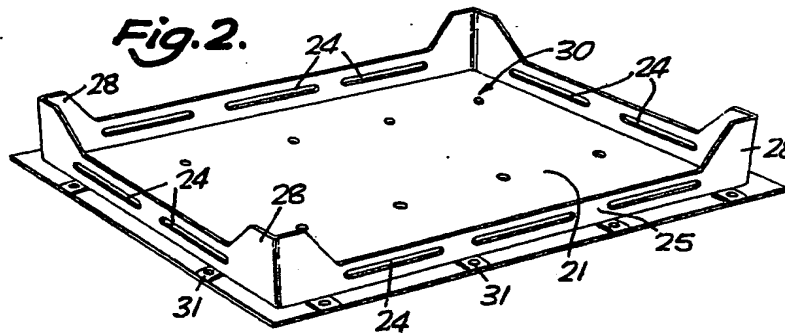
7. A container as claimed in claims 1 to 6 in which the upstanding flanges of the tray

increase in height at the corners of the tray. 10

8. A container substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

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Fig. 1.*Fig. 2.*

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